



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
**KC MAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS FOR ILLEGAL FIREARM
FOLLOWING JURY CONVICTION**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man, previously convicted of involuntary manslaughter, was sentenced in federal court today for illegally possessing a firearm. The sentencing, Graves said, marks additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

Jesse D. Counce, 32, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan this morning to 10 years in federal prison without parole.

On May 5, 2005, **Counce** was found guilty by a federal trial jury of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal jury found **Counce** guilty of being a felon in possession of a Bryco .380-caliber pistol on Oct. 11, 2003. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Counce** has a 1991 criminal felony conviction for involuntary manslaughter and a 2002 criminal felony conviction for child endangerment.

Law enforcement officers initially discovered **Counce** in possession of a firearm during a routine traffic stop conducted because **Counce** was driving a vehicle with a false temporary license plate. At the time, **Counce** had three outstanding warrants. Upon searching the vehicle, law enforcement officers discovered the firearm in a black nylon bag located behind the passenger's seat. The firearm was later determined to have been stolen, Graves added.

Counce was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Sept. 14, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelson. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow